

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8106

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, FR

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC COMMENTS ON EC "DIRECTOR-
ATE"

REF: (A) PARIS 04343 NOTAL, (B) PARIS 05264 NOTAL

1. DURING FEBRUARY 19 TELEVISION INTERVIEW, PRIME MINIS-
TER JACQUES CHIRAC WAS QUESTIONED ON PRESIDENT GISCARD'S

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SUPPOSED CALL FOR EC "DIRECTORATE". INFORMAL EMBASSY

TRANSLATION OF HIS REPLY FOLLOWS:

2. "A YEAR AGO, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OBTAINED FROM OUR PARTNERS AN AGREEMENT TO TAKE AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD AN IMPROVED ORGANIZATION OF EUROPE THROUGH THE INSTITUTION OF A COUNCIL OF EUROPE, THAT IS TO SAY A GROUPING OF HEADS OF STATE AND OF GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR INSURING EUROPEAN PROGRESS.

3. "NOW WE ARE NINE. WE WILL BECOME, I HOPE, WITH GREECE TOMORROW, PROBABLY WITH SPAIN AND PERHAPS WITH PORTUGAL, TEN, ELEVEN OR TWELVE. AT THIS POINT, AND AS EVENTS EVOLVE, EUROPEAN RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE POLITICAL AREA WILL REQUIRE AN IMPROVED ORGANIZATION. SUCH AN ORGANIZATION WOULD SUPPOSE THAT SEVERAL MEMBERS AMONG THE TEN, ELEVEN OR TWELVE, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO SIZE BUT IN ONE FASHION OR ANOTHER, BE IN A POSITION TO ASSUME PERMANENTLY THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR POLICY FORMATION. THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETS THREE TIMES A YEAR AND THAT IS NOT SUFFICIENT. THEREFORE THIS SUBJECT DESERVES FURTHER CONSIDERATION. AND IT WILL BE EXAMINED BY EUROPEAN AUTHORITIES, IN OTHER WORDS CHIEFS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENTS."

4. COMMENT: CHIRAC'S REMARKS TEND TO CONFIRM OUR FEELING THAT GISCARD'S DIRECTORATE COMMENTS SHOULD BE VIEWED LARGELY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S CONCERN THAT CURRENT EC LEADERSHIP MECHANISMS ARE INADEQUATE AND WILL PROVE INCREASINGLY SO AS THE COMMUNITY EXPANDS.

RUSH

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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